December 14, 2010

Commissioner Michael Copps Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Copps,

ColorOfChange.org, CREDO Action, MoveOn.org Political Action and Progressive Change Campaign Committee, and the 8 million members we represent, have worked tirelessly over the last year for strong net neutrality rules that would protect all Americans' opportunity to have their voices heard online. Combined, our members have filed hundreds of thousands of comments and reply comments in support of net neutrality and broadband reclassification.

Our members understand that only strong net neutrality rules that apply no matter how they get online will protect them from the worst abuses of the broadband companies. They also understand that only reclassification has a chance of putting net neutrality and other key items on the FCC's agenda on firm legal ground.

That's why, on behalf of our members, we are writing to express our deep misgivings about the net neutrality rules proposed by Chairman Genachowski. In their current state, they are unfit for adoption by the Federal Communications Commission, and we respectfully urge you to vote no without substantive improvements.

Specifically, no acceptable proposal can permit paid prioritization; can exempt wireless broadband from the protections offered for wireline; nor can it move forward without reclassifying broadband, providing the legal footing required by the courts for implementation. Just as importantly, the rule must have clear, inexpensive, and rapid procedures, and meaningful penalties, so that innovators and citizens can effectively seek redress and legal clarity. Without these protections, broadband companies will have free rein to begin rebuilding the Internet as they see fit. To do nothing would be better than to accept the Chairman's current proposal.

In his relentless search for the path of least resistance, Chairman Genachowski has proposed a set of rules that, if adopted, would normalize ISPs' ability to discriminate between sources and types of content. The Chairman's proposal appears to be a collection of safe-harbors requested by the largest carriers, rather than rule to benefit average citizens. And by eschewing reclassification under Title II, the Chairman all but guarantees the courts will strike down the regulations.

There is a powerful public mandate from organizations and everyday people reflecting all America's diversity of race, class, and political opinion who want meaningful, enforceable net neutrality protections. If Chairman Genachowski won't heed that call, then we urge you to do what's right and vote no on the Chairman's proposal.

Respectfully,

ColorOfChange.org CREDO Action MoveOn.org Political Action Progressive Change Campaign Committee